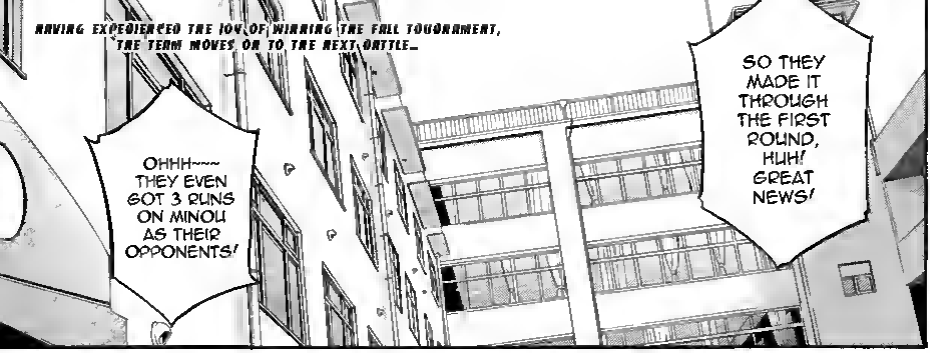
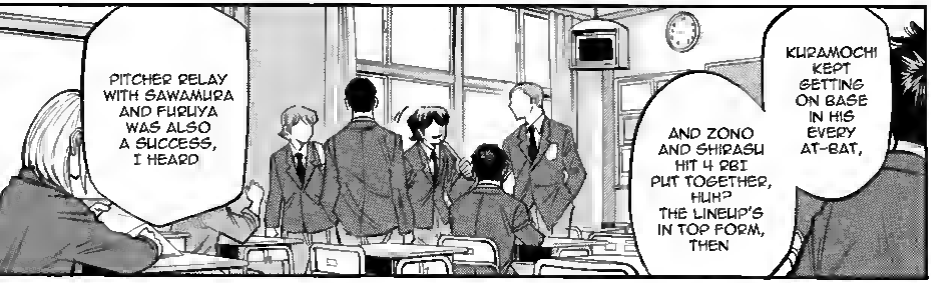


Ace of Diamond


PITCHER RELAY WITH SAWAMURA AND FURUYA WAS ALSO A SUCCESS, I HEARD
AND ZONO AND SHIRASU HIT 4 RBI PUT TOGETHER, HUH? THE LINEUP'S IN TOP FORM, THEN
KURAMOCHI KEPT GETTING ON BASE IN HIS EVERY AT-BAT,

EPILOGUE 1 COMEBACK

TERAJIMA YUUJI
寺嶋裕二

THE DAY BEFORE THE MATCH
HE MAKES SURE TO WATCH THE SITUATION AROUND HIM CAREFULLY
BUT HE'S STILL A BIT TOO NAIVE AT TIMES
AND HOW WAS KURAMOCHI DOING AS THE CAPTAIN, IN YOUR OPINION?

YOU CATCH MY DRIFT, YEAH, PEOPLE?
JUST YOU TRY TO FUCK IT UP AND LOSE TOMORROW.
SEIDOU WITHOUT MIYUKI IS A BUNCH OF PANSIES, IS HOW THEY'RE GONNA DISS US IF YOU DO.
WHAT HE'S SAYING, BASICALLY, IS WE'RE BEING MADE LIGHT OF.
GULP

I THINK YOU'LL BE BETTER OFF JUST DOING IT YOUR USUAL WAY, ONO...
I'M GONNA DO THIS, NORI! JUST YOU WATCH, I'M SO GONNA DO THIS!
WE'VE GOT TO SHOW THEM ALL WHAT WE'RE REALLY MADE OF.
THIS GUY'S A FINE MESS.
SEE!
BUT SOMETIMES HE DOES GET THE JOB DONE. SEE!!!
THIS IS THE MANLY WAY TO EXPRESS KINDNESS!
DON'T FORGET TO WELCOME EVERY PLAYER WHO MANAGED TO LAND A HIT WITH A ROUND OF WARM APPLAUSE!
RESPECT—!
BECAUSE THE LEADER CHANGED.
THE ATMOSPHERE SURE CHANGED.
IN ANY CASE, THE SENPAIS ARE TOTALLY READING TO GO.

KICK THEIR ASS!
BASTARDS UNDER-ESTIMATING US, WE'LL KICK THEIR ASS!
SLAUGHTER 'EM ALL!
JERKS STANDING IN OUR WAY, WE'LL SLAUGHTER 'EM ALL!
I SEE ~~~
THIS IS SOMETHING TAKAKO-SENPAI CAME UP WITH.
DIFFERENT TYPES OF PITCHES ARE MARKED WITH DIFFERENT COLORS
WHEN IT'S AN OUTSIDE PITCH, YOU MARK IT LIKE THIS
IT'S EASY TO TELL THE COURSE OF A PITCH WITH THESE, SO THIS SYSTEM REALLY IS GREAT!
SACCHAN, YOU'VE GOTTEN PRETTY USED TO KEEPING THESE RECORDS BY YOURSELF, NO?
Uh huh!
EVEN CHRIS-SENPAI WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT IT, RIGHT?

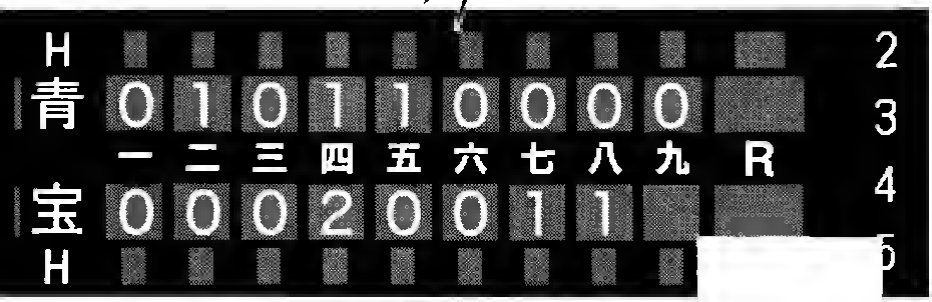
Saechan, don't lose to him!
I SEE I THOUGHT SO
YEAH
HN.. IT'S STILL DIFFICULT TO READ COMPARED TO TAKAKO-SENPAI'S
WELL IT WAS A FRESH EXPERIENCE, AND KINDA FUN, TOO.
HOW DID YOU LIKE YOUR FIRST TIME WATCHING A MATCH FROM THE BLEACHERS INSTEAD OF PLAYING IN IT?
THIS MATTER WITH ME ASIDE, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHAT A REVELATION! I NEVER PEGGED YOU FOR A SHY GUY TILL NOW!
FIRST, YOU GOTTA GET RID OF THAT SHYNESS THEN!
LET'S ALL TRY HARDER AT CHEERING!
BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU, WAS IT?
AND YOU DIDN'T CHEER!
EH? HE DIDN'T?
IT WAS WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE, YOU KNOW

明治神宮野球場
SIGN: MEIJI JINGU BASEBALL STADIUM
JINGU TOURNAMENT
2ND ROUND
PITCHER RELAY WITH KAWAKAMI AS THE STARTING PITCHER AND SAWAMURA REPLACING HIM IN THE 5TH INNING.
GET READY FOR THIS!

WITH THE LINEUP IN TOP SHAPE, THE TEAM SCORED 6 RUNS, NUMBER OF SAFE HITS REACHING DOUBLE DIGITS.
LIKE PREVIOUSLY, FURUYA TOOK THE MOUND IN THE LAST INNING IN THAT GAME AS WELL.
THE 3 PITCHER RELAY SUCCESSFULLY SHUT DOWN THE TSURUMIGAOKA LINEUP, THUS ALLOWING THE TEAM TO ADVANCE TO THE SEMIFINALS.

IN THE SEMIFINAL,
HOKUSEI HIGH
Hokkaido representative
4-1
10:30
SEIWOU HIGH
Tokyo representative
2-1
8:30
TSURUMIC
Hokushin-etsu representative
3-1
8:30
THE STARTING PITCHER WAS SAWAMURA.
Coca-Cola
THE GAME SAW THE SEESAW DEVELOPMENT FROM EARLY STAGES ON, WITH BOTH TEAMS MAKING THE BEST OF THEIR OPPORTUNITIES IN ATTACK.
WITH THE SCORE TIED AT 3-3, THE GAME ENTERED THE 8TH INNING---

A PAINFUL MISTAKE BETWEEN THE BATTERY-MATES FURUYA AND ONO...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SFX: CLAP CLAP CLAP
...RESULTED IN A LOSS OF THE DECISIVE SINGLE RUN THAT, IN THE END, SEALED THE TEAM'S DEFEAT.

THE 4 MOST DEPENDABLE SEIDOU PLAYERS PRESENT:

Read this article before the sidestory!

In order to enjoy the special stories in this issue and in issue 30 properly, we will explain some high school baseball basics and provide a summary of events thus far!

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL SCHEDULE (FALL, WINTER AND SPRING)

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER: FALL TOURNAMENT

THIS TOURNAMENT IS HELD TO DETERMINE THE STRONGERST TEAM IN EACH OF THE 10 REGIONS: HOKKAIDO, TOUHOKU, KANTOU (WITHOUT TOKYO), TOKYO, HOKUSHIN'ETSU, TOUKAI, KINKI (KANSAI), CHUGOKU, SHIKOKU AND KYUSHU. THIRD YEARS RETIRE FROM THE TEAM AFTER THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT, SO THE FALL TOURNAMENT TESTS THE NEW TEAM'S STREHGTH. IT'S THIS TOURNAMENT IN THE REGION OF TOKYO THAT THE NEW SEIDOU HAS WON UNDER MIYUKI'S LEADERSHIP.

NOVEMBER: JINGU TOURNAMENT

THE OFFICIAL NAME IS THE "MEIJI JINGU BASEBALL TOURNAMENT". BECAUSE THE PARTICIPANTS ARE ONLY THE 10 SCHOOLS THAT WON THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONAL FALL TOURNAMENTS, THIS TOURNAMENT IS SAID TO DETERMINE THE "FALL CHAMPIONS". SIMILARLY TO THE SUMMER KOUSHIEN AND SENBATSU (SPRING KOUSHIEN), SEIDOU HAD TO PLAY IN THIS TOURNAMENT WITHOUT MIYUKI WHO WAS INJURED IN THE COURSE OF THE FALL TOURNAMENT.

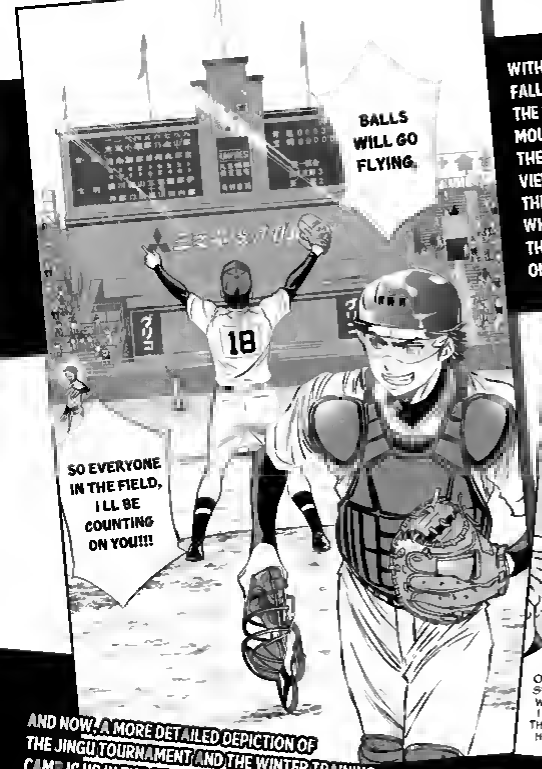
DECEMBER: WINTER TRAINING CAMP

THIS TRAINING CAMP IS HELD OVER THE PERIOD OF NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS. RATHER THAN FIELD TRAINING, A LOT OF SCHOOL FOCUS ON HAVING THE PLAYERS BUILD THEIR BODIES, WITH EMPHASIS ON RUNNING AND WEIGHT TRAINING.

MARCH-APRIL: SENBATSU (SPRING KOUSHIEN)

THE OFFICIAL NAME IS THE "NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT". IT DETERMINES THE SPRING CHAMPIONS. THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS ARE CHOSEN BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE THAT TAKES THE RESULTS OF REGIONAL FALL TOURNAMENTS AND THE NATURE OF THE REGIONS INTO CONSIDERATION. IN THE CASE OF TOKYO, THE SCHOOL WINNER OF TOKYO FALL REGIONAL IS A VIRTUAL SENBATSU LOCK. SEIDOU ALSO FOUGHT EQUATING WIN IN THE FALL TOURNAMENT TO PARTICIPATING IN THE SENBATSU.

WITH SEIDOU HAVING CONQUERED VICTORY IN TOKYO REGIONAL FALL TOURNAMENT, PART 1 DROPPED THE CURTAIN WITH THE IMAGE OF SAWAMURA'S BACK, WHO IS STANDING ON THE MOUND OF THE SENBATSU TOURNAMENT.
THE SIDESTORY "SPIRITS" TOLD FROM THE 3RD YEAR ISASHIKI'S VIEWPOINT DESCRIBED THE PERIOD FROM THE AFTERMATH OF THE FALL TOURNAMENT AND TILL THE WINTER TRAINING CAMP, WHILE ANOTHER SIDESTORY, "THE SEIDOU DIARY", FOLLOWING THE TEAM'S MANAGER HARUNO, PROVIDED SOME PERSPECTIVE ON BOTH THE FALL AND JINGU TOURNAMENTS.

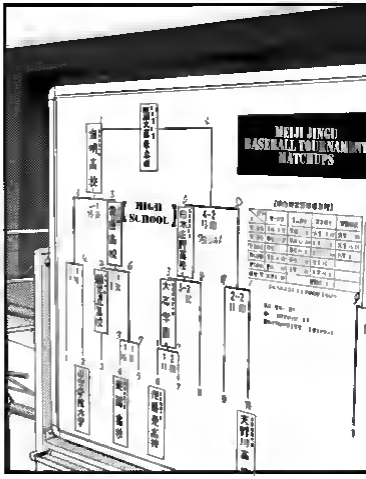


AND NOW, A MORE DETAILED DEPICTION OF THE JINGU TOURNAMENT AND THE WINTER TRAINING CAMP IS UP IN THE SIDESTORIES OF THIS ISSUE AND ISSUE 30! YOU WILL WITNESS NEW PREVIOUSLY UNREVEALED SCENES FROM THE LIFE OF THE SEIDOU BASEBALL CLUB DURING THE PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS IN LENGTH BETWEEN THE END OF THE FALL TOURNAMENT AND THE SENBATSU!

THE MANGA 'DAIYA NO A' WAS PLANNED TO RESUME SOMETIME IN SPRING. ALTHOUGH THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS OFFICIAL, UNFORTUNATELY, THE RESUMPTION HAS TO BE DELAYED, FOR WHICH WE PROFUSELY APPOLOGIZE. TO MAKE UP FOR THE WAIT, WE INTEND TO MAKE PART 2 EVEN MORE EXCITING THAN PART 1 WAS, AND WE ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE WORKING HARD WITH THAT GOAL IN MIND. TO HYPE YOU FOR PART 2, THE STORY IN THIS ISSUE, AS WELL AS THE ONE THAT WILL APPEAR IN ISSUE 30 ARE SPRINKLED WITH "FORESHADOWING". ANTICIPATE IT!

WITH THAT, ALL OFFICIAL GAMES FOR THIS YEAR HAD BEEN OVER,
AND TEAMS ENTERED THE OFF-SEASON, WHEN ALL NON-IN-TEAM GAMES ARE BANNED BY THE REGULATIONS UNTIL THE OPENINGOF THE NEXT SEASON IN MARCH.

HOKKAIDO REPRESENTATIVE
KOMADAI FUJIMAKI HIGH


MEIJI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT MATCHUPS

NOVEMBER,
17

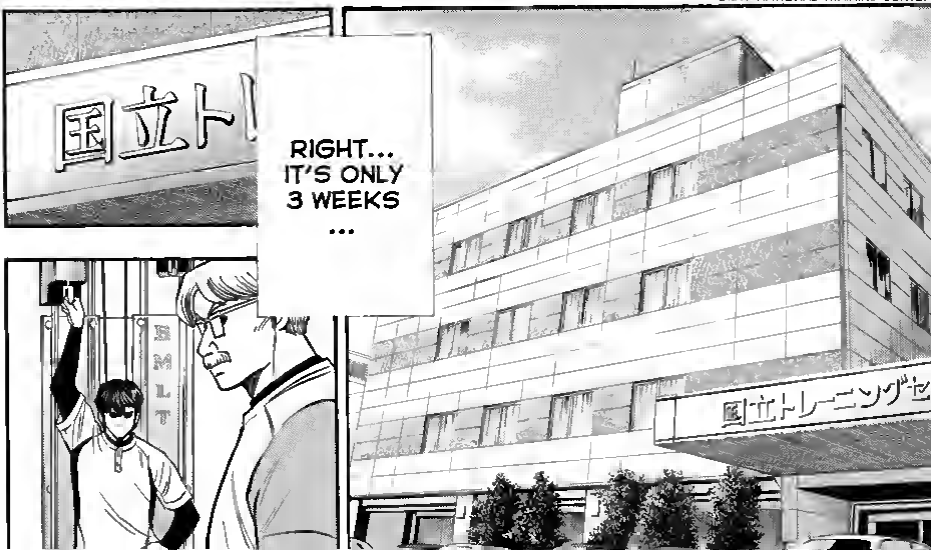
WE'RE MAY BE IN THE OFF-SEASON,
BUT PRACTICE IS GONNA BE EVEN HARDER THAN BEFORE
Like this!

YOU GOTTA KEEP POLISHING UP YOUR BASICS IF YOU WANT TO GET STRONGER
BUT WITH THE EXAMS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, YOU GOTTA BALANCE BASEBALL WITH STUDIES.
THE TRAINING YOU GET DONE IN THIS PERIOD....
...IS WHAT WILL BECOME YOUR STRENGTH IN SPRING... AND IN SUMMER.

YOU NEED TO LET YOUR PULLED MUSCLE HEAL PROPERLY SO THAT THIS KIND OF THING WON'T BECOME REPETITIVE, SO YOU NEED TO REFRAIN FROM STRAINING YOURSELF. OKAY?
IT'S FINE FOR YOU TO MOVE AROUND NOW BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. AT LEAST NOT UNTIL YOU NO LONGER FEEL ANY DISCOMFORT FROM YOUR INJURY.
YOU'RE OUT OF THE PHASE WHERE INFLAMMATION WAS A DANGER.
3 WEEKS...
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MIGHT FEEL ANXIOUS ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLUB'S PRACTICE FOR 3 WEEKS, BUT STILL...
ON SECOND THOUGHT, 3 WEEKS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO...

WHAT HAPPENED FOR YOU TO SUDDENLY REQUEST THIS?
WELL, THINGS I'M ALLOWED TO DO RIGHT NOW ARE LIMITED.
SO I JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD CHANGE OF PACE.
EVERYBODY IS PATIENTLY WAITING FOR YOU TO COME BACK
I WONDER ABOUT THAT.
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO RUSH, YOU KNOW?
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, HUH.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY EXPRESSING YOURSELF MORE, LIKE YOU DID THAT TIME?
ACTUALLY, REI-CHAN, WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
WITHOUT TRYING TO SHOULDER EVERYTHING ALONE.
A PERSON YOU CAN OPEN UP TO, I MEAN...?

SIGN: NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER



WHEN HE WAS STRUGGLING ALL ALONE BACK THEN,
WAS THERE SOMETHING I COULD'VE DONE FOR HIM?
BOW
STARTING THIS SPRING, I HAVE BECOME THIS SCHOOL'S STUDENT AS WELL.
MY NAME IS MIYUKI KAZUYA. NICE TO MEET YOU!

I'M GONNA STEAL ALL I CAN FROM YOU.
AND THAT REGULAR SPOT OF YOURS IS GONNA BE MINE EVENTUALLY, TOO!
YEAH DO YOUR BEST
IN HINDSIGHT, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT EVEN BACK THEN HE HAD ALREADY BEEN STRUGGLING WITH THE INJURY...

IT LOOKS LIKE HE DID EVERYTHING HE COULD TO KEEP IT UNDER WRAPS.
WERE THERE SOME CLUES WE COULD'VE PICKED UP ON..?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING.
FORGET THE FALL TOURNAMENT. HE'S DOWN FOR THE COUNT EVEN FOR THE SPRING ONES...
A WHOLE YEAR TILL HE CAN COME BACK..?!
REGULAR CATCHER, FIRST YEAR, MIYUKI.
AT THE EXPENSE OF CHRIS-SENPAI HAVING BEEN MOVED TO THE BLEACHERS...
AFTER THAT, HE STARTED SHOWING HIS FACE AT THE CLUB'S PRACTICES MUCH LESS DUE TO REHABILITATION EATING UP THE LION'S SHARE OF HIS TIME.
I WAS MOVED TO THE VARSITY

EVEN THEN, HE DIDN'T QUIT THE CLUB.
THIS WAS STILL ONLY THE WARM-UP ROUTINE?!
Alright, stretching is next.
You took a second more than you were supposed to.
Do another lap
HE DIDN'T GIVE UP ON BEING A PLAYER TILL THE VERY END.

TO BE HONEST, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO ACCEPT IT RIGHT AWAY.
YEAH, I GOT IT SOON AFTER MY SURGERY
EH? A CARD WITH GET-WELL MESSAGES?
COME BACK!!!
Leave the team to me
Don't get fat while in hospital
By the time you're back, I'll learn a breaking ball!
When you're back, let's play Momotetsu
Don't lose. Come back strong
Seidou without you is like takoyaki without octopus. Hurry up and come back!
Get a power up and come back!
Overcome your pain with reason and move forward. I'll be waiting!
Even if we go to Koushien, it'll be dull without you.
WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU!
Try hard and it'll pay off!
Don't give up!
Make sure to heal and come back! I'll be waiting in the meantime! Position in the meantime! Where there's a will there's a way!
I put a spell on you for your shoulder to heal perfectly!
Don't flirt with cute nurses!
Don't get scared and get back for sure!
Make sure you come back
I'll show you my idol DVDs when you're back
FACE IT

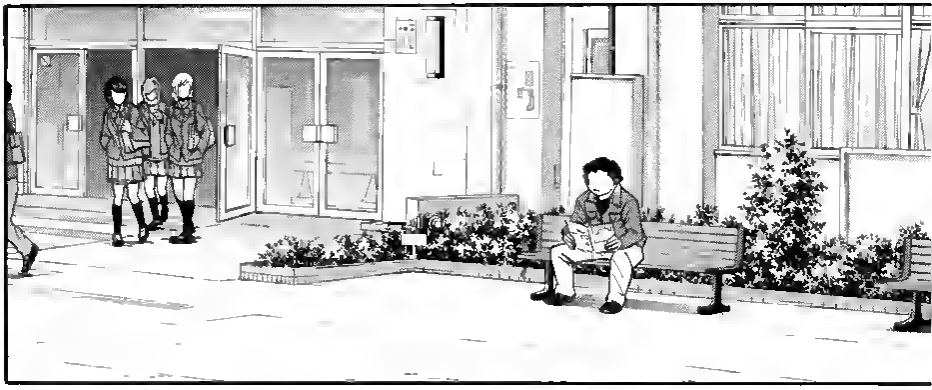
T/N: MOMOTETSU IS A ROLEPLAYING GAME SIMILAR TO MONOPOLY

COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT CARD WAS ALWAYS STUCK IN MY MIND, HUH...
AND THANKS TO IT, I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT ABOUT QUITTING THE CLUB.

WIN OR LOSS...
Oh, I'm out of the woods.
What about your condition?
...HAHA.

It's true, I'm telling you! It's that moron we're talking about, after all!
IT HAD BEEN SEALED WHICH ONE IT WOULD BE FOR ME THE MOMENT I BECAME FASCINATED BY HIM, HUH.

I HAVE A FEELING THAT NEVER FOR THE LIFE OF ME WILL I BE ABLE TO WIN AGAINST THIS GUY...

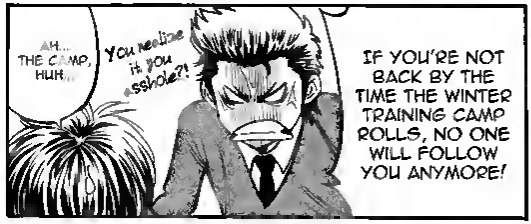


CITY WORK
そうだ 働こう!

2-B
HEY,
CAPTAIN!
?
I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN HANGING OUT AT CHRIS-SENPAI'S PLACE A LOT LATELY?
I DON'T MIND SUBSTITUTING FOR YOU FOR JUST A BIT LONGER,
SO MAKE SURE YOU COME BACK TO THE FIELD IN YOUR TOP CONDITION.
DO YOU SEE OTHER CAPTAINS HERE?!
QUIT DAY-DREAMING, JEEZ!

WITHOUT YOU, IT'S LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING.

WHAT, GOT FED UP WITH THE BURDENS OF CAPTAINCY ALREADY, EH?
GRIN


AH... THE CAMP, HUH...
You realize it, you asshole?!
IF YOU'RE NOT BACK BY THE TIME THE WINTER TRAINING CAMP ROLLS, NO ONE WILL FOLLOW YOU ANYMORE!

SH- SHUT UP, YOU JERK!!!
HAHAHA
BULLSEYE, THEN.
SERIOUSLY, YOU'RE SUCH AN ANNOYING SMARTASS!

ANOTHER SPECIAL SIDESTORY WILL BE PUBLISHED IN №37 (ON SALE 6/2)
LET'S CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HELL TOGETHER! HYAHAHAHA!
OW- OW-OW, MY SIDE HURTS...
■END■